

Application Serial No. 10/090,665  
Docket No. 39861.0200  
Response/Amendment dated September 14, 2004  
Reply to Office Action mailed on June 30, 2004

**In the Claims**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Claims 1-7 (cancelled)**

8. (previously submitted) A method for facilitating the fabrication of a hard cover for at least a portion of an article, the method comprising:

positioning shrinkable material over at least a portion of the article;

shrinking said shrinkable material to form a fitted cover for said at least a portion of the article;

applying a layer of molding material overlying said fitted cover to form a hard cover for said at least a portion of the article; and

applying a protective layer comprising polyvinyl alcohol—overlying a surface of said fitted cover before said applying said layer of molding material.

9. (previously submitted) A method for facilitating the fabrication of a hard cover for at least a portion of an article, the method comprising:

positioning shrinkable material over at least a portion of the article;

shrinking said shrinkable material to form a fitted cover for said at least a portion of the article;

applying a layer of molding material overlying said fitted cover to form a hard cover for said at least a portion of the article;

applying a layer of surface coating overlying said fitted cover before said applying said layer of molding material; and

applying a protective layer overlying a surface of said fitted cover before said applying said layer of surface coating.

**Claims 10-17 (cancelled)**

18. (previously submitted) A method for facilitating fabrication of a first article from a second article, the method comprising:

positioning shrinkable material over at least a portion of the second article;

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shrinking said shrinkable material to form a fitted cover for said at least a portion of said second article;

applying a first layer of molding material overlying said fitted cover to form a mold, said mold having a surface which is a negative impression of at least a portion of said fitted cover;  
removing said mold from said fitted cover;

applying a second layer of molding material overlying said surface of said mold to form the first article;

applying a protective layer comprising polyvinyl alcohol.—Overlying a surface of said fitted cover before said applying said first layer of molding material.

19. (previously submitted) A method for facilitating fabrication of a first article from a second article, the method comprising:

positioning shrinkable material over at least a portion of the second article;

shrinking said shrinkable material to form a fitted cover for said at least a portion of said second article;

applying a first layer of molding material overlying said fitted cover to form a mold, said mold having a surface which is a negative impression of at least a portion of said fitted cover;

removing said mold from said fitted cover;

applying a second layer of molding material overlying said surface of said mold to form the first article;

applying a layer of surface coating overlying said fitted cover before said applying said first layer of molding material; and

applying a protective layer overlying a surface of said fitted cover before said applying said layer of surface coating.

Claims 20-24 (cancelled)

25. (previously submitted) A method for facilitating fabrication of a first article from a second article, the method comprising:

positioning shrinkable material over at least a portion of the second article;

shrinking said shrinkable material to form a fitted cover for said at least a portion of said

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second article;

applying a first layer of molding material overlying said fitted cover to form a mold, said mold having a surface which is a negative impression of at least a portion of said fitted cover;

removing said mold from said fitted cover;

applying a second layer of molding material overlying said surface of said mold to form the first article; and

applying protective layer comprising polyvinyl alcohol—overlying said surface of said mold before said applying said second layer of molding material.

26. (previously submitted) A method for facilitating fabrication of a first article from a second article, the method comprising:

positioning shrinkable material over at least a portion of the second article;

shrinking said shrinkable material to form a fitted cover for said at least a portion of said second article;

applying a first layer of molding material overlying said fitted cover to form a mold, said mold having a surface which is a negative impression of at least a portion of said fitted cover;

removing said mold from said fitted cover;

applying a second layer of molding material overlying said surface of said mold to form the first article;

applying a layer of surface coating overlying said surface of said mold before said applying said second layer of molding material; and

applying a protective layer overlying a surface of said fitted cover before said applying said layer of surface coating.

Claims 26-29 (cancelled)

30. (Original) A method for facilitating fabrication of a first article from a second article, the method comprising:

forming over at least a portion of the second article a cover comprising a heat shrinkable material;

heating said cover to shrink said heat shrinkable material to form a fitted cover for said at

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least a portion of said second article;

    applying a first wax layer overlying a surface of said fitted cover;  
    applying a first protective layer overlying said first wax layer;  
    applying a first layer of surface coating overlying said first protective layer;  
    applying a first layer of molding material overlying said first layer of surface coating to form a mold, said mold having a surface which is a negative impression of at least a portion of said fitted cover;  
    removing said mold from said fitted cover;  
    applying a second wax layer overlying said surface of said mold;  
    applying a second protective layer overlying said second wax layer;  
    applying a second layer of surface coating overlying said second protective layer;  
    applying a second layer of molding material overlying said second layer of surface coating to form a first article; and  
    removing said first article from said mold.

31. (Original) The method of claim 30, said first article comprising a hard cover for said second article.

Claims 32-33 (cancelled).